

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 1-27 will remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits. Claims 1, 11, 16, 21 and 27 have been amended.

The amendments made herein to the claims do not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed. For example, support for the amendments to claims 1, 11 and 16 occurs in original claim 21. Claim 27 has been amended to remove its improper multiple dependency.

Accordingly, entry of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

***Objection to Specification***

At paragraph "1." on page 2 of the Office Action, the disclosure is objected to.

The paragraph beginning on page 8, line 21 has been amended herein. The amendment is based on original claim 16. Thus, the objection to the disclosure has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

***Objection to the Drawings***

One (1) sheet of replacement drawings is submitted herewith. Figures 3A and 3B have been corrected according to the instructions of the Examiner on the PTO-948 Form attached to the Office Action mailed September 14, 2005.

***Objection to Claims***

At paragraph "2." on page 2 of the Office Action, claim 27 has been objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependant claim cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claim.

As explained above, claim 27 has been amended so as to remove its improper multiple dependency. As such, it is submitted that the objection to claim 27 has been properly rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

***Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph***

At page 2 of the Office Action, Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Applicants traverse this rejection, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

Upon entry of the instant amendment to claim 27, Markush language no longer exists in the claim. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

***Double Patenting Rejection***

At pages 2-3 of the Office Action, claims 1-26 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-7 of co-pending (allowed) application no. 10/722,450 and claims 1-11 of co-pending (allowed) application no. 10/478,413.

However, claims 1-26 are patentably distinct from those claims of application nos. 10/722,450 and 10/478,413, since the present invention has the feature of "at least one transition metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel and cobalt and at least one halogen selected from the group consisting of chlorine, iodine and bromine", as recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 16.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

***Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102***

Claims 1-20 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Asahi JP'271 (JP11-181271A) or Sumitomo JP '903 (JP9-169903A). Further, claims 1-26 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Sumitomo JP '398 (JP6-184398A). Still further, claims 16-20 and 24 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kasai US '052 (US 5,109,052).

A partial, or mechanical, English translation of Asahi JP '271, Sumitomo JP '903 and Sumitomo JP '398 are submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement being filed concurrently herewith.

Reconsideration and withdraw of each of these rejections is respectfully requested based upon the following considerations.

***The Present Invention***

The present invention is directed to a relay block (claims 1 and 11) or a resin composition (claim 16). As recited in independent claims 1, 11 and 16, a feature of the present invention is

that a resin composition contains “at least one transition metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel and cobalt and at least one halogen selected from the group consisting of chlorine, iodine and bromine”.

*Asahi JP '271, Sumitomo JP '903, Sumitomo JP '398 and Kasai US '052*

Each of Asahi JP '271, Sumitomo JP '903, Sumitomo JP '398 and Kasai US '052 fails to disclose or suggest “at least one transition metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel and cobalt and at least one halogen selected from the group consisting of chlorine, iodine and bromine”, which is a feature of the present invention as recited in claims 1, 11 and 16.

Accordingly, the present invention (independent claims 1, 11 and 16 and dependent claims) is not anticipated by Asahi JP '271, Sumitomo JP '903, Sumitomo JP '398 and Kasai US '052.

***Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 103***

Claims 1-26 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asahi JP'271, Sumitomo JP '903, Asahi JP' 682 (JP5-70682A) or Asahi JP '972 (JP8-217972A). Further, claims 1-20 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamada US '282 (US 5,283,282), Kubo US '902 (US 5,470,902) in view of Kasai US '052 (US 5,109, 052) and Kakegawa US '292 (US 5,455,292). Please note that “*Kubo et al. 5,109,052*” at paragraph “19.” of page 5 of the Office Action should be read Kubo et al. 5,470,902.

A partial English translation of Asahi JP' 682; and the mechanical English translation of the full text, the supplementary partial English translation and the hand-written English translation of the Tables of Asahi JP '972 are being submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement being filed concurrently herewith.

Reconsideration and withdraw of each of these rejections is respectfully requested based upon the following considerations.

Claims 1-26

Claims 1-26 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asahi JP'271, Sumitomo JP '903, Asahi JP' 682 or Asahi JP '972.

An important advantage of the present invention is satisfying a market demand for a relay block which has a complicated structure and does not have melt wrinkles on a surface of the molded article (see the disclosures of "Background Art" and "Disclosure of the Invention" of the instant specification).

As a result of the detailed study, the present inventors have found that a resin composition with noticeably high flowability as recited in the present claims can satisfy the market demand.

Unobviousness of the present claims over Asahi JP '271, Sumitomo JP '903, Asahi JP '682 and Asahi JP '972 is explained below with reference to a comparison of the results of Examples and those of Comparative Examples described in the present specification.

In Examples 1-6 of the present specification, a resin composition comprising copper as a transition metal and iodine as a halogen, which is one of the essential features recited in the

present claims, is employed (i.e., in Examples 1-6, PA6,6-3 or PA6,6-MB or PA6-MB which contains copper and iodine are used.). On the other hand, in Comparative Examples 1 and 2 of the present specification, such a resin composition is not employed (i.e., in Comparative Examples 1 and 2, only PA6,6-1 or PA6,6-2 which does not contain copper or any other specified transition metal and does not contain iodine or any other specified halogen is employed). Contrary to the results of Comparative Examples 1 and 2, a relay block excellent in molding appearance can be produced in Examples 1-6.

In the meantime, the present specification describes, at page 12, lines 3-7, *"The wrinkles occur, for example, due to nonuniformity in flow velocity caused by the coexistence of thick wall portions and thin wall portions, due to sliding caused near the gate, due to jetting, and the like."*

Further, the present specification describes at page 23, lines 16-20, *"for the purpose of further improvement of heat stability imparted by the polyamide resin to the resin composition, a transition metal and/or a halogen may be contained in the resin composition."* Since the inventive resin composition contains at least one transition metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel and cobalt and at least one halogen selected from the group consisting of chlorine, iodine and bromine, the resin composition has improved heat stability. Accordingly, the resin composition has an effect of suppressing its jetting which may occur during the injection molding process. As a result, a molded article of relay block according to the present invention, which has excellent molding appearance and does not have melt wrinkles on a surface of the molded article, can be obtained.

On the other hand, as mentioned above, Asahi JP '271, Sumitomo JP '903 and Asahi JP '682 fail to disclose or suggest the specific transition metals and halogens. Moreover, they are

also silent about improvement of appearance of molded articles such as suppression of melt wrinkles. Therefore, a person skilled in the art, trying to achieve an object as disclosed in the present specification, i.e., trying to satisfy a market demand for a relay block which has a complicated structure and does not have melt wrinkles on a surface of the molded article, would not be motivated to rely on the teachings of Asahi JP '271, Sumitomo JP '903 and Asahi JP' 682.

Asahi JP '972 describes transition metals and halogens. However, it fails to disclose or suggest a technical idea that improvement of appearance of the molded article can be achieved by incorporating the specific transition metal and halogen into the resin composition. Furthermore, the invention of Asahi JP '972 is directed to increasing a reduced viscosity of the polyamide contained in the resin composition to the predetermined value (see claim 1 of Asahi JP '972). This is totally different from the technical idea of the present invention that is directed to the resin composition with noticeably high flowability. Thus, Asahi JP '972 not only fails to disclose or suggest any technical idea of the present invention, but also teaches away from the present invention.

Therefore, a person having ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated by any of the teachings of the cited references to arrive at the present invention instantly recited in pending claims 1, 11 and 16, based upon the failure of the cited art to teach anything about the object as disclosed in the present specification, i.e., trying to satisfy a market demand for a relay block which has a complicated structure and does not have melt wrinkles on a surface of the molded article, and particularly, when one considers that the disclosure Asahi JP '972 teaches away from the present invention.

Accordingly, the present invention (independent claims 1, 11 and 16 and dependent claims) is not unobvious over Asahi JP '271, Sumitomo JP '903, Asahi JP' 682 and Asahi JP '972.

Claims 1-20 and 24-26

Claims 1-20 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamada US '282, Kubo US '902 in view of Kasai US '052 and Kakegawa US '292.

Hamada US '282, Kubo US '902, Kasai US '052 and Kakegawa US '292 merely describe some components contained in the inventive resin composition. However, these references fail to disclose or suggest “at least one transition metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel and cobalt and at least one halogen selected from the group consisting of chlorine, iodine and bromine”, which is the feature of the present invention as recited in the present independent claims 1, 11 and 16.

Further, these references fail to disclose or suggest the technical idea that occurrence of melt wrinkles due to jetting can be suppressed and appearance of the molded article can be improved by incorporating said at least one transition metal and said at least one halogen as recited in the present claims into the resin composition.

Thus, a *prima facie* case of obviousness is not established even if the cited references are combined, since none of the cited references disclose or suggest “at least one transition metal selected from the group consisting of copper, nickel and cobalt and at least one halogen selected from the group consisting of chlorine, iodine and bromine” as recited in each of independent claims 1, 11 and 16.



Accordingly, the present invention (independent claims 1, 11 and 16 and dependent claims) is not unobvious over Hamada US '282, Kubo US '902, Kasai US '052 and Kakegawa US '292.

### CONCLUSION

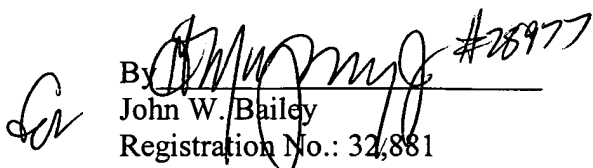
Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims 1-27 are allowed under the provisions of Title 35 of the United States Code.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey (Reg. No. 32,881) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: One (1) Sheet of Corrected Formal Drawings